THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Science Talent Search at class XII level was discontinued in 1977. The examination was extended to Social Science subject also taught at Class X and renamed as National Talent Search Scheme.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Introduction of Palmistry

210. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any decision to introduce Palmistry as a subject for studies in schools and colleges in the year 2004-05;

(b) whether there were other such subjects void of scientific logic as were proposed for inclusion in the courses of studies in schools and colleges in the year 2003-2004;

(c) whether the State Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(d) the present status of such moves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Admissions under handicapped quota

†211. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mentally retarded students are not getting admissions in the universities under the reservation for handicapped quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether mentally retarded children do require higher education; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.